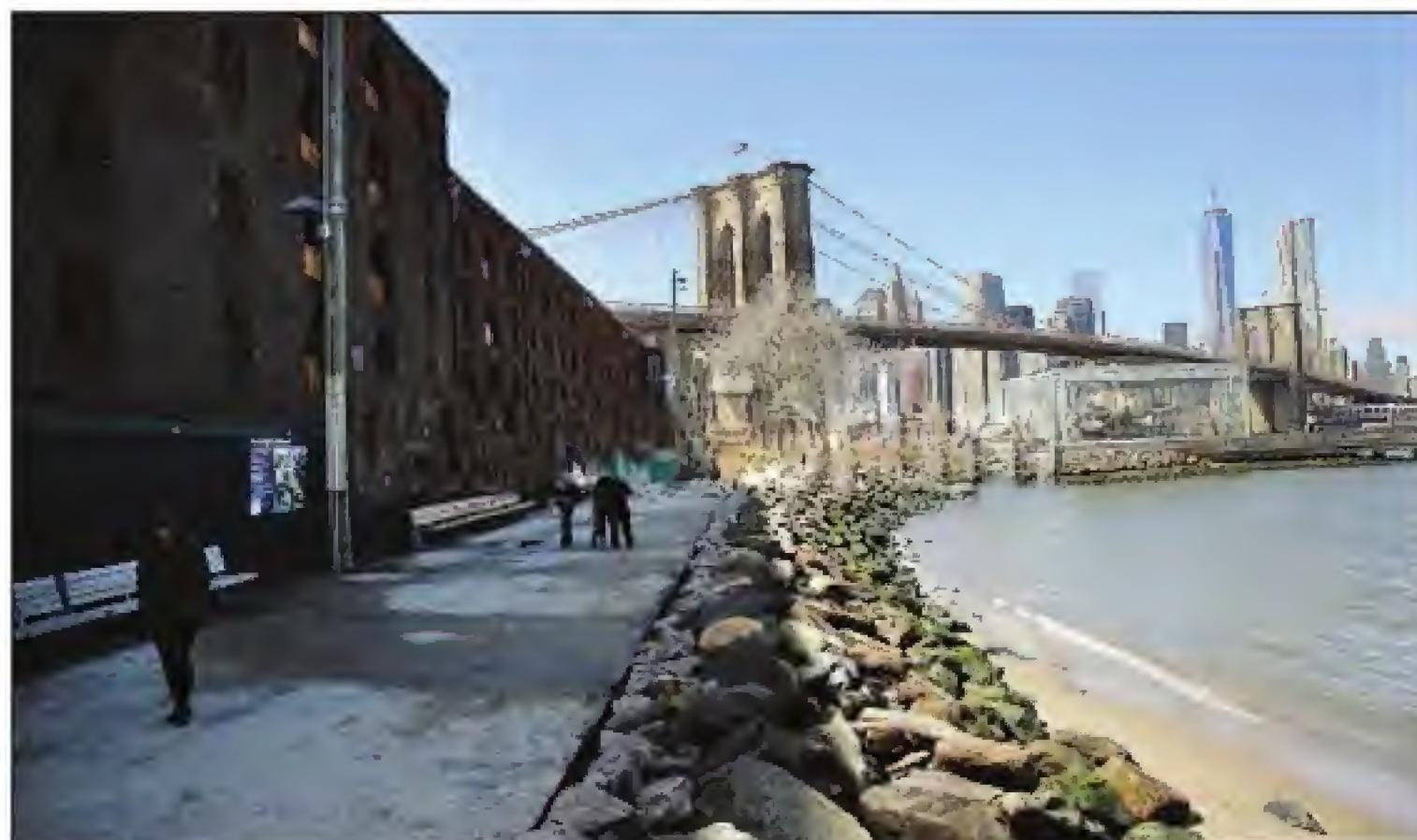


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Panel's warning on climate risk: Worst is yet to come



NEW YORK -- People walk along the water in a park in Brooklyn that saw severe flooding during Hurricane Sandy on March 31, 2014 in New York City. A new report released yesterday by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, a United Nations group that summarizes climate science, gave a dire picture of the earth's slow warming due to greenhouse gases and other human based behaviors. The report warned that countries and cities located along the coastline face a particular danger as the oceans continue to rise resulting in large scale flooding and erosion. (AFP PHOTO)

Netherlands brings deficit back under EU limit

THE HAGUE(AFP) - The Netherlands brought its public deficit back under the EU's 3.0 percent limit in 2013 for the first time in five years, data showed yesterday.

The government managed to push the spending gap down to 2.5 percent of GDP, from 4.1 percent in 2012, Statistics Netherlands said.

"The substantial fall in the deficit amount was largely caused by a rise in income: government revenues rose by 7.0 billion euros to 385 billion euros," it said in a statement.

Overall, the deficit was reduced by 9.0 billion euros.

The deficit figure could be revised upwards depending on how it accounts for the nationalisation of SNS REAAL Bank, although the statistics agency officials said it would not push the country above the 3.0 percent threshold in any case.

The Netherlands managed

to reduce the deficit despite the economy being in recession for most of the year. It snapped eight consecutive quarters of contraction with 0.8 percent growth at the end

of 2013.

The public debt however rose by 2.2 percentage points to 73.5 percent of GDP, further above the EU limit of 60 percent.

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AAA executives are very pleased with participation in Airside Safety Week 2014



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Temporary reallocation of some Civil Registry services

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This is the E-Aruba seminar week for Aruba!

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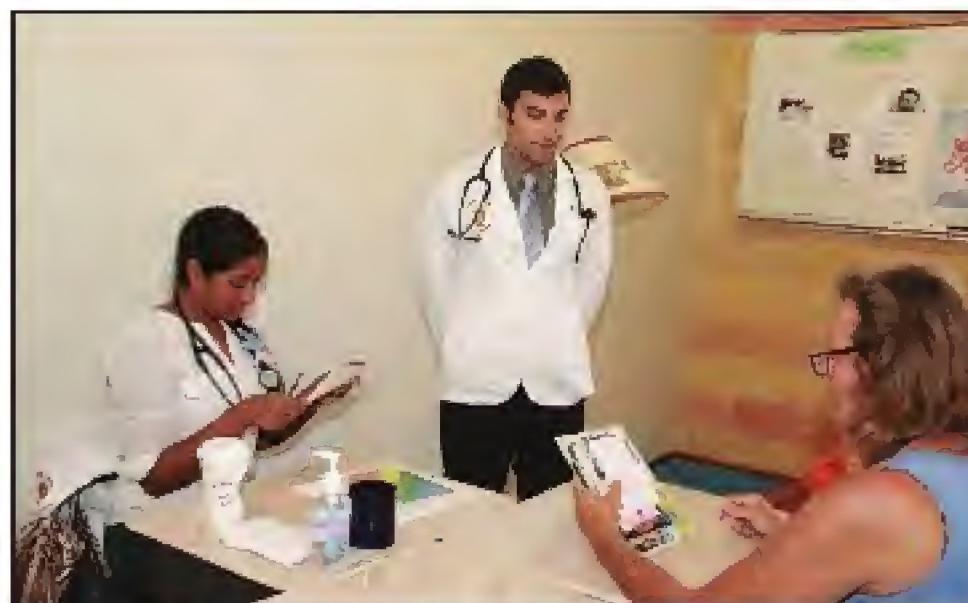


Burgers, Fries.. & More!

International School of Aruba welcomes visitors for their annual open house



Information about the high school



XUSOM staffers provide analysis of results



Teachers and parents welcome visitors



WAYACA -- A visit to the International School of Aruba is always a revelation, with fun activities and a peek at their diverse curriculum and advanced facilities. Originally located at Seroe Colorado, it opened in 1929 within the confines of the Lago Colony, established for the children of the executives of the new refinery. It was Aruba's first English school.

Eventually, during the 1960's the school opened its doors to island residents on a tuition basis. When Exxon departed Aruba in 1985, the parents of the remaining students re-organized, forming the ISA Foundation, to continue its programs and princi-

ples. In March of 2004, the governance and ownership of ISA passed to International School Services, ISS, a non-profit agency headquartered in Princeton, N.J.

The ISA moved to its new location in Wayaca in 2006, adding the new Richard Lacle Visual and Performing Arts wing last year. The school operates on a tuition basis, striving to offer a top-quality education from Montessori for ages 3 years old through 12th grade in high school. Presently, it accommodates around 200 students.

The annual open house is a keen demonstration of the singular community of involved parents, teachers and

students that is ISA, as well as their connection to the Aruban community in general. Aside from displays of the student's work and information imparted about their various programs, the school also hosted an outreach by the Xavier University School of Medicine. Both staff doctors and students gave free examinations for blood pressure, hearing and vision, cholesterol and body mass index, with a final consultation to evaluate the results and the suggestion to consult with the family doctor when results suggested a condition needing attention.

The new arts center hosted an impressive display of art-

work and ISA Principal Sarah Putnam was particularly excited to see their dancing studio being put to good use by Aruba Performance Academy, which will now regularly provide the school's dance classes in various disciplines.

The day was punctuated by fundraising events such as bingo, a book sale, bake sale and flea market, aside from the entertaining activities to involve visitors. Ms. Putnam expressed she was very gratified to see such a wonderful show of school solidarity from parents, students and teachers, as well as their excitement and enjoyment of the day's activities.

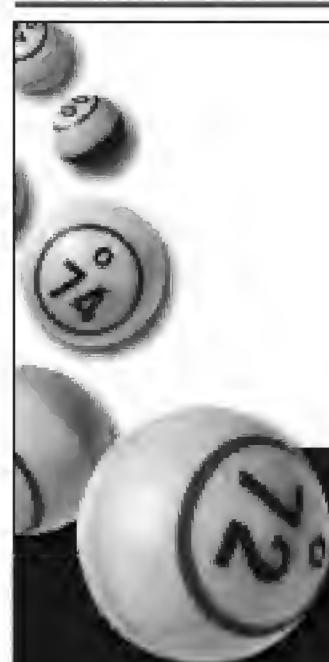
Temporary reallocation of some Civil Registry services

ORANJESTAD -- In connection with the work of renovation and maintenance on the main Census Building, some of the registry and census services will be reallocated to the former Aruba Bank Data Center in the Zoutmanstraat 6, telephone: 588-5011/ 588-5012.

In the temporary facility one can register births, deaths, marriages and divorces. Since January 13 work was begun on renovating and maintaining the Census building, also known as the Stadhuis and Hotel Colombia. The work is under the guidance of the Monuments Office. They encountered some technical problems with the work, such as mildew and unusual flaking which makes it impossible to continue the work without giving attention to this situation.

The general public is kindly requested to not go to the Census building if not really necessary. For the Afis 5 certificate one must go to the auxiliary government offices in the barrios during this period of maintenance.

For passports you can make use of the appointment service by calling 583-8181 or by sending an email to cita@censo.aw. For all other services at the main Census building, the public is requested to have consideration for the work in progress. The Office of the Census and Civil Registry offer their excuses for the inconveniences.



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Airlines reject debt repayment of 11.30 per dollar

CARACAS — The Venezuelan President, Nicolas Maduro met with international airlines operating in the country presenting a shameful "last payment proposal" calculating debt to 11.30 bolivars per dollar, although the bulk of the commitment of 3.7 billion dollars was gained when the bolivar was at 6.30 per dollar. This is according to an industry source who declined to be identified.

"All the airlines rejected the proposal, bringing the negotiations back to point zero," the source indicated. Accepting the cancellation to the benchmark rate of Complementary Currency Management System I, imply a loss for carriers of about 1.5 billion dollars.

Since late last year the

government sector has proposed various forms of payment, ranging from gasoline to cancel debts by using national bonds, but neither mechanism has materialized.

The International Air Transport Association, or IATA, said that some airlines were considering ceasing operations because of the frozen funds and that the government had in the past promised to allow the funds to be repatriated.

Alternative solutions including payment in bonds or fuel were discussed but never implemented, IATA Chief Executive Tony Tyler said. Within the past year, 11 airlines that have been flying to Venezuela have reduced their operations by between 15 percent and 78 percent, he said.

Kiwanis Club of Aruba celebrates first lustrum of Fundraising Golf Tournament

ORANJESTAD -- This past weekend, the Kiwanis Club of Aruba celebrated the first lustrum of their fundraising Golf Tournament. This is an initiative begun by club member Giantonio Muller. The majority of the participants of previous years were present on Sunday morning together with their team at The Links at Divi Aruba.

Despite the hot sun, the players did their best to take home the first prize. At the end of the tournament no team succeeded in achieving the prize of 'hole in one' to take home the grand prize, a 2014 Ford Explorer, courtesy of R.E. Yrausquin & Sons.

The winners of this years' tournament are: Closest to the pin - Harold Hagens, Longest drive - Ruben Goedhoop, Best gross - Nigel Nedd, Larry Nedd, Floyd Nedd and Ray Perez. Best nett - Ruben Goedhoop, Pim Smits, Ricky Beaujon and Francis Ras.

During the ceremony to present the prizes to the winners, Kiwanis Club of Aruba also held an auction. The auction was patronized by Insel Air and Divi Aruba. The prize was 2 tickets to Miami with a weekend stay combined with a round of complimentary golf.

The highest auction bids came from Shurby Ranis, Marcel Solagnier and Pierre Rafini. This helped to increase the fund of the tournament. From the funds collected the Club made a donation of Afsl.11.910 to the



Donation to YMCA



The winners

YMCA.

The YMCA received this with great appreciation and indicated that the funds received will be used for opening a library in the San YMCA using modern technology.

Following the presentation of the donation, golfers were presented with their winning prizes. Kiwanis Club of Aruba is especially grateful to their various sponsors.

Kiwanis is a global organ-

ization of volunteers dedicated to changing the world through one child and through the community. Their slogan is: serving the children of the world. Kiwanis Club of Aruba has been serving the Aruban community since 1964. For more information on the Kiwanis Club of Aruba and their activities, visit: www.kiwanis-aruba.org. Or visit the international website: www.kiwanis.org.



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Common excuses people use to not donate to charity!

During the course of our daily lives there are always extraordinary circumstances that occur that warrant our attention and support. We see or hear about the circumstance and we know that they will need help to get through the dilemma, but we hesitate or even refuse to help, to donate to the cause. You know full well that when you give to an organization that helps others, you are making a positive impact. Your few florins together with the florins of others will change lives. That brings me to the question. Why do good people with the ability to help and donate to others hold back from doing this, when they really want to help? Let me give you five reasons people hold back on donations: 5 excuses to not donate to charity:

1. I don't have the money to donate.

Obviously, there are times when you may not have the cash flow to make a donation. But, most often than not this is the exception. Using the excuse that you don't have the money is unacceptable. Most businesses can find creative ways to make money for charitable contributions. In fact, as a good business citizen I cannot but help when there is a legitimate need in the community. If you believe in a good cause, you must find a way to help that cause with a donation.

2. I don't want my money to go towards overhead.



3. I believe all charities are fraudulent.

True, there are charlatans out there, people who want to deceive us and get us to give them money to fund their nonsense. In a small community like Aruba, this is easily spotted however. You cannot choose not to help because of a small few who may have been swindlers. You cannot refuse to help because of a few bad people. The argument that all charities are fraudulent is a cheap copout,

to say the least. The fact is that the grand majority of charities on the island is all bona fide and really need your help.

4. My money won't help. Your money, together with the money of other supporters will go a long way and will definitely help! Never think of your donation as being the end. Think of your donation as being part of the support of many others that will bring about real change to the ones being helped. Decide what is comfortable and affordable for you, and donate that with a joyful heart.

5. My money is no longer needed.

When a crisis hits, this may get headline reporting, go on the news everywhere and people may respond with donations. But at a given moment the reporting stops, the cameras stop rolling and nothing more is said about the situation. Everyone thinks all is ok again and that donations are no longer needed. This may be far from the truth. And to conclude that your money is no longer needed may again be a copout not to help. If you are approached for help beyond the reporting...don't hesitate to give according to your measure. Don't decide not to help because the need has passed. In most cases it is after the reporting that the work is most intense and the need greatest.

Donate to the causes that touch your heart. Remember, as citizens of the community, we are all called to contribute in tangible ways to the needs around us. Businesses have the responsibility to corporate community support as good citizens. It brings great joy to see how our donations have helped others! Giving to others is fun!

If this article was helpful, let me know: tonygreen.morningnews@hotmail.com



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Loyal visitors honored by Aruba



Recently, the Aruba Tourism

Authority (ATA) honored a group of loyal friends as Distinguished Visitors and Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba.

The Distinguished Visitors honor is bestowed on vacationers coming to our island for 10 or more consecutive years; the Goodwill Ambassador honor is given to vacationers coming here for 20 or more consecutive years.

At Marriott Ocean Club, William and Peg Bauer from Maine were honored as Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba.

Aruba.

At Costa Mr. Ralph and Mrs. Donna Hood resident of Pennsylvania; Mr. David and Mrs. Charlene Levesque resident of Rowley Massachusetts; Mr. Edward and Mrs. Jeanne Savaria resident of Gardner Massachusetts; and Mr. Jim and Mr. Kyle Schwiesow resident of Wisconsin were also honored as Goodwill Ambassadors of

Congratulations to all the honorees.



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This is the E-Aruba seminar week for Aruba! AAA executives are very pleased with participation in Airside Safety Week 2014

ORANJESTAD -- On Saturday, April 5th in the Renaissance Convention Center, the RBC Royal Bank Aruba will host the first E-Aruba Seminar. Three international speakers will be sharing their knowledge on topics of "Social Media," "Digital Marketing," and "Entrepreneurship."

Registrations are pouring in both from the local market and from Curacao. Their website for registering is www.e-aruba.com



Richard Pollack

topics is more than welcome, according to the organizers.

The three heavy weight speakers from the USA are: Ramon Ray from New York, Richard Pollack from Florida and Andre Barreto. The seminar is scheduled to begin at 9:00 in the morning. Tickets are available at Office Systems, Write Here and online via www.e-aruba.com. The website shares more information on the speakers.

The seminar is sponsored by among others, RBC Royal Bank Aruba, Marriott Resorts Aruba, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Insel Air, Office Systems Aruba, PWC, SETAR, Brand-it PR & Marketing, TERA Group, WEB Aruba NV, Click Print and 24Ora.com. Infinity Media Aruba is charged with the organization of the event.



Andre Berreto

Many are asking, who should attend a seminar of this nature? This seminar is appropriate for those working in marketing, communications, public relations, technology, sales, students, top management and persons interested in opening a business in the future. Any other person interested in the three

WAYACA -- A full five days of lectures, seminars, workshops and a the traditional fun walk, to encourage fitness, came to a close on Friday afternoon, March 28 as Executives of the Aruba Airport Authority acknowledged outstanding interest and attendance for Reina Beatrix International Airport Airside Safety Week 2014.

Established ten years ago, the events put a spotlight on recognizing potential work hazards and preventing accidents, daily conscientious conduct and trauma management on the tarmac of Aruba's airport.

AAA CEO Peter Steinmetz was joined by Director of Operations, Jurgen Benschop and Chairman of the Safety Committee, Eric Martijn, in recognizing the airside workers who were particularly dedicated and involved in the week's activities, during a casual end party for the winners and organizers in the airport's VIP room.

Marcel Kock of AGS was



First across the finish line of the FOD Walk, Marcel Kock



The Almost There Award presented to Lupe Carrion and COPA Airlines

first across the finish line of the annual walk, earning him a round trip ticket to Valencia, Venezuela with Insel Air. Gilmar Oduber of the AAA was rewarded for being third in regular attendance to events with a voucher to The Cinemas, and Effrain Martinez of AGS earned the second place BBQ set. Nai-nomie Calmera of AGS was awarded a round-trip ticket to Miami with American Airlines for her perfect attendance record for the week.

Top scorer in the final Safety Quiz, Stefvan Snijders, was also rewarded with

a trip to Miami for him and his family. Copa Airlines of Panama came in second to Delta Airlines for the "Company of the Year" Safety Award and was awarded "Nearly There" trophy, which was accepted on their behalf by Copa's Station Manager Lupe Carrion.

"We are very pleased by the interest and enthusiasm of the airside staffers for the event," stated Jurgen Benschop. "Our great record is evidence that the week definitely serves its purpose as well as uniting the community that works behind the scenes at the airport."



The Snijders win a round trip to Miami

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Malaysia corrects last words from Flight MH370

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) - Malaysia's civil aviation department said late yesterday the last words spoken by one of pilots of missing Flight MH370 were "Good night Malaysian three seven zero", and not the more casual "All right, good night" originally reported.

The admission is likely to add to criticism of the Malaysian authorities' handling of the search for the Malaysia Airlines flight which vanished on March 8 during a flight from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing.

Chinese relatives of those on board the missing plane have been particularly scathing, accusing Malaysia of incompetence and even a cover-up.

"We would like to confirm

that the last conversation in the transcript between the air traffic controller and the cockpit is at 0119 (Malaysian time) and is 'Good night Malaysian three seven zero!', the department said in a statement yesterday night.

"The authorities are still doing forensic investigation to determine whether those last words from the cockpit were by the pilot or the co-pilot."

Malaysia Airlines CEO Ahmad Jauhari Yahya had said on March 17 the last words from the cockpit were believed to have been spoken by the co-pilot.

Shortly after the last message from the plane communications were cut and the Boeing 777, carrying mostly

Chinese nationals, vanished from civilian radar.

The civil aviation department said a full transcript would be released during a briefing with relatives of the missing passengers.

The move comes after testy exchanges yesterday between foreign journalists and Malaysian Transport and Defence Minister Hishammuddin Hussein, who insisted: "We are not hiding anything, we are just following the procedure that has been set."

Malaysia insists it is being transparent, but has yet to release any details of its investigation into what happened, which has included probing the backgrounds of everyone on the flight, including its crew.

Russian forces 'gradually withdrawing' from Ukraine

KIEV (AFP) - Ukraine yesterday reported a partial withdrawal of Russian troops from its border amid growing signs the Kremlin was ready to de-escalate the worst East-West standoff since the Cold War.

The announcement came in the wake of a four-hour meeting in Paris between US Secretary of State John Kerry and Russia's Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov that ended with an exchange of political proposals and an agreement to talk again soon.

In Berlin German Chancellor Angela Merkel's office

said Russian President Vladimir Putin had personally informed her of the troop pullback in a phone call on Monday, but provided no other details.

German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier called the troop movements "a small sign that the situation is becoming less tense".

Both Western powers and the new pro-European interim leaders in Kiev have been increasingly worried that the Kremlin intends to seize heavily Russified southeastern parts of Ukraine after annexing its Crimea

peninsula in response to the fall in February of the Moscow-backed president in Kiev.

The United States said it would welcome any Russian move to pull its forces back, but did not confirm reports that it had begun to do so.

Russia's defence ministry confirmed yesterday it had relocated one battalion -- usually comprised of about 500 soldiers -- that had been stationed near Ukraine back to its permanent base but reported no other movement of troops.



LOS ANGELES - PETA activists simulate slaughtering of a seal in front of the Canadian Consulate in downtown Los Angeles on March 31, 2014. The demand for seal fur has plummeted to the point that Canada's annual massacre of tens of thousands of baby harp seals is costing the Canadian government about \$7 million a year in subsidies. (AFP PHOTO)



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Man who fired shots at White House jailed for 25 years

WASHINGTON (AFP) - A man who opened fire on the White House with an assault rifle after telling friends he was on a mission from God to kill President Barack Obama was jailed yesterday for 25 years.

Oscar Ramiro Ortega-Hernandez drove more than 2,000 miles (3,200 kilometers) to the US capital from his home in Idaho to carry out his November 2011 attack.

Prosecutors said he fired at least eight rounds at the White House after telling friends he was "on a mission

from God to take out" Obama.

Obama and his family were not staying at the White House at the time, and no one was injured in the incident.

Ortega-Hernandez, 23, pleaded guilty in September to terror and weapons charges.

In addition to his jail term, Ortega-Hernandez was ordered to pay \$94,000 in restitution for damage done to the White House by his attack. He faces five years of supervised release when he leaves prison.

US Supreme Court refuses appeal of Mexican murderer

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The United States Supreme Court yesterday declined to hear an appeal from a convicted Mexican citizen facing execution in Texas next week.

Ramiro Hernandez is one of several Mexican prisoners in the US seeking to challenge their sentences on the grounds they were not properly advised of their right to consular assistance after their arrest.

The Vienna Convention, ratified by 175 countries including the United States, dictates that foreign nationals must be able to receive consular assistance when arrested.

Hernandez's case was one of 51 recommended for review by the International Court in The Hague in 2004 on the grounds of non-compliance of the Vienna Convention.

While several of the 44-

year-old's compatriots have been freed or seen their sentences commuted, three have been executed while around 40 remain on death row.

The Supreme Court did not give its reasons for turning down Hernandez's appeal, meaning he faces execution on April 9 at 6:00 pm in Huntsville, Texas.

Hernandez was sentenced to die in 2000 for murdering a 49-year-old man who employed him on his ranch in San Antonio. He also repeatedly raped his victim's wife following the murder.

While behind bars for the murder, Hernandez attacked and killed a female prison guard.

Hernandez's lawyers may yet lodge further appeals on the grounds of his mental state or over the substance to be used by Texas to carry out his lethal injection, which the state has declined to disclose.

Two men found in South African ATM

PORT ELIZABETH (AFP) - Police in the South African coastal city of Port Elizabeth said they arrested two suspected thieves found inside a cash machine on Monday.

The pair were discovered in a compartment behind the screen of the machine at a township petrol station in the early hours of the morning.

Police believe they entered the unit in an attempt to steal cash.

Large, robust stand-alone cash machines are common in South Africa following an epidemic of ATM bombings in the early 2000's.

"It was about 3.51am when police went to investigate after an alarm was triggered," Captain Andre Beetge told AFP.

After a brief search officers "were about to leave, when they noticed movement inside the ATM," said Beetge.

"Upon careful investigation, they found two men, aged 18 and 20 inside."

The pair were arrested and charged with malicious damage to property, further charges are expected when the men appear in court on Tuesday.

It is believed the suspects used screw drivers and other instruments to force open the ATM, which was built into a larger vault.

Venezuela clears protest city's streets: official

CARACAS (AFP) - Venezuelan security forces have cleared barricades from the western city that launched the first in a wave of national anti-government protests, a military commander said Monday.

Vladimir Padrino, head of the armed forces' strategic operations command, said that police and the national guard had removed the blockades in three key avenues of San Cristobal late Sunday.

Raquel Sanchez of the Penal Forum said the streets were cleared after a "disproportionate deployment" but she predicted the protests would continue.



About 250 soldiers and police participated in Sunday's operation and 11 people were detained, according to National Police chief Manuel Perez. Perez said 20 people were arrested.

The crackdown came two weeks after authorities arrested San Cristobal's opposition mayor, Daniel Ceballos, on charges that he failed to take action against the barricades.

The Supreme Court sentenced Ceballos to one year in prison on Tuesday.

Students launched the first protest on February 4 to denounce the country's runaway crime rate after the attempted rape of a young woman.

Since then, ordinary residents of San Cristobal have built barricades made of tree trunks, metal fences and trash

across the city, which is the capital of Tachira state.

The government deployed paratroopers to Tachira, claiming that Colombian right-wing paramilitaries were present in the region.

Genesis Garcia, a student leader at Catholic University of Tachira, told AFP that despite the "militarization" of the state, the protests would continue in San Cristobal.

The San Cristobal protest inspired demonstrations in other parts of the country against President Nicolas Maduro, demanding solutions to the country's violence, food shortages and soaring inflation. Demonstrators have also demanded the release of jailed protesters.

The protests have often turned violent, leaving at least 39 people dead.

Hollande axes PM after election debacle

PARIS - (AFP) - French President Francois Hollande gestures after he recorded a speech to be broadcast on French television at the Elysee presidential Palace in Paris. Hollande has reacted to a humiliating setback at the polls by appointing popular Interior Minister Manuel Valls as his new prime minister. Hollande decided to axe current Prime Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault after his Socialist Party lost more than 150 towns and cities to the main opposition and far-right in municipal elections on week-end. Valls came under heavy fire last October following the deportation of a 15-year-old Roma girl and her family to Kosovo, after she was taken off a bus in the middle of a school trip. Accusing police of humiliating the girl and violating her rights, critics rounded on Valls, with some demanding his resignation. But polls showed that the overwhelming majority of voters backed Valls in that row and he retained the confidence of Hollande, with whom he is personally close.



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Liberia confirms spread of 'unprecedented' Ebola epidemic



CONAKRY (AFP) - Aid organisation Doctors Without Borders said Monday an Ebola outbreak suspected of killing dozens in Guinea was an "unprecedented epidemic" as Liberia confirmed its first cases of the deadly contagion. Guinea's health ministry this year has reported 122 "suspicious cases" of viral haemorrhagic fever, including 78 deaths, with 22 of the samples taken from patients testing positive for the highly contagious tropical pathogen. "We are facing an epidemic of a magnitude never before seen in terms of the distribution of cases in the country: Gueckedou, Macenta, Kissidougou, Nzerekore, and now Conakry," Mariano Lugli, the organisation's coordinator in the Guinean capital, said in a statement. The group, known by its French initials MSF, said that by the end of the week it would have around 60 international field workers with experience in working on haemorrhagic fever divided between Conakry and the south-east of the country. Ebola has killed almost 1,600 people since it was first observed in 1976 in what is now the Democratic Republic of Congo but this is the first fatal outbreak in west Africa. The tropical virus leads to haemorrhagic fever, causing muscle pain, weakness, vomiting, diarrhoea and, in severe cases, organ failure and unstoppable bleeding. No treatment or vaccine is available for the bug, and the Zaire strain detected in Guinea has a historic death rate of up to 90 percent. It can be transmitted to humans from wild animals, and between humans through direct contact with another's blood, faeces or sweat, as well as sexual contact or the unprotected handling of contaminated corpses.

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Late Obamacare surge jams website

WASHINGTON (AFP) - A last minute enrollment surge briefly jammed the website for President Barack Obama's health care law Monday as his top domestic legacy achievement hit a first-year deadline.

The White House, which has paid a heavy political price for the unpopular law, was triumphant as a predicted late rush for policies materialized and banished memories of a disastrous website outage which haunted the launch of enrollments late last year.

But it will be months before the long-term success of Obamacare in broadening access and making medical insurance affordable can be assessed, and the law remains a political albatross for the president and fellow Democrats.

The White House said that the final enrollment figures for the first year would be substantially higher than the six million figure already recorded.

Officials had previously set seven million enrollments as the standard for success -- a figure that could now be approached by the midnight deadline.

The health care law is

Obama's signature domestic political achievement and the most sweeping social reform in decades in the United States.

Yet its passage and implementation ignited a partisan battle and highlighted deep political and ideological divisions cleaving the United States.

Obamacare drained the president's political stock and its unpopularity threatens to help Republicans put a stranglehold on Congress in November's mid-term elections.

Officials said a problem with the Affordable Care Act (ACA) website stopped people from establishing new accounts for several hours on Monday.

But the glitch, as more than 100,000 people were already signed into the system, was fixed with 10 hours to go until the midnight deadline.

Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius (HHS) described Monday as a "huge surge day" in an interview with HuffPost Live.

By noon, 1.2 million people had logged onto the website on Monday, said HHS spokeswoman Joanne Peters.

But Republicans are rubbishing administration

claims.

Republican Senator Lindsey Graham on Monday said on Twitter the law needed to be "torn down."

Objective judgments on Obamacare are hindered by a lack of detail in enrollment figures.

It is unknown how many young people have signed up -- an important indicator since they are needed to subsidize higher costs of older, sicker patients.

If Obamacare pools skew too old, the cost of premiums could rise next year.

Also unclear is whether everyone who registered for a health plan actually paid for it.

Another unknown is what percentage of those signing up had no prior coverage.

Knowing that is important because the law's bedrock goal is to provide health care for over 40 million Americans who lack it.

Making the Obamacare rounds Monday were Vice President Joe Biden, Sebelius and other officials on various television and radio shows.

A White House official said 27,000 "navigators" were on duty in 8,600 community health centers to speed sign-ups.

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Elton John to marry longtime partner



WASHINGTON (AFP) - Pop icon Elton John says he will tie the knot with partner David Furnish now that his native Britain has legalized gay marriage.

The top-selling artist told NBC's "Today" show that "we'll do it very quietly."

"But we will do it and it will be a joyous occasion," John added.

The couple, who have two children together, entered into a civil partnership in 2005.

A historic law legalizing same-sex marriage took effect in England and Wales on Saturday, the final stage in the long fight for legal equality for gays and lesbians.

Civil partnerships have been legal there since 2005.

"I'm very proud of Britain and the laws that we've seen come into existence since we've been together," John said in excerpts of the interview set to air Monday.

"For this legislation to come through is joyous, and we should celebrate it. We shouldn't just say, 'Oh, well we have a civil partnership. We're not going to bother to get married.' We will get married."

Furnish told the Las Vegas Review-Journal in a separate interview that an intimate ceremony would take place in May.

"I think what we'll do is go to a registry office in England in May, and take the boys with us, and a couple of witnesses," the publication quoted him as saying.

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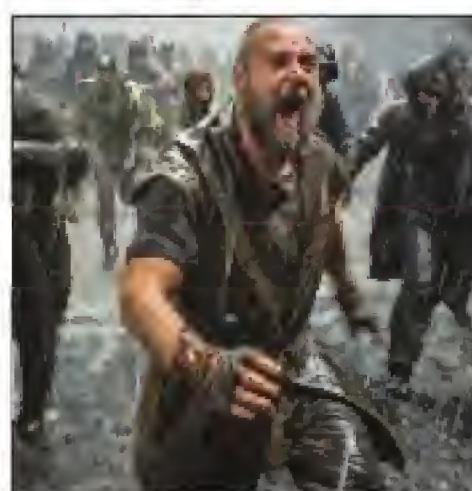
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'Noah' stays dry to top US cinema box office

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - "Noah," the big screen adaptation of the biblical tale starring Russell Crowe in the lead role, topped the North American Box Office at the weekend.

The action drama, which reunites Crowe with Jennifer Connelly whom he starred alongside in "A Beautiful Mind" in 2001, earned \$44 million, easily holding off last week's top earner "Divergent," which took second spot with \$36.5 million.



"Muppets Most Wanted," Kermit and Co's latest outing, was a distant third with \$11.4 million in takings. It was ahead of "Mr Peabody

and Sherman," based on characters from the 1960s television cartoon "Rocky and Bullwinkle," which earned \$9.5 million in its third weekend in theaters.

In fifth place (\$9.1 million) was the religiously themed "God's Not Dead," which tells the story of a college freshman who debates his atheist philosophy professor.

The film was ahead of Wes Anderson's quirky "The Grand Budapest Hotel," which earned \$8.8 million in

sixth spot.

In a quiet week for new releases, the only other debut movie, "Sabotage," an action flick headed by Arnold Schwarzenegger and Sam Worthington, took a disappointing seventh place with \$5.3 million in ticket sales.

The rest of the pack included car-chase action movie "Need for Speed," followed by ancient Greece fantasy-action movie "300: Rise of an Empire" -- the gory prequel to the 2007 hit "300" --

Apple and Samsung to renew patent battle in US court



SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) - Apple and Samsung will return to federal court in the heart of Silicon Valley on Monday for a new round in their seemingly perpetual patent war.

The case concerns smartphone and tablet patents and is just the latest in a long-running feud between the two tech giants, who are battling for supremacy in a multi-billion-dollar market.

The rivals will face off once again before District Court Judge Lucy Koh in the California city of San Jose.

Koh presided over a trial last year that ended with a jury declaring Samsung owed Apple more than a billion dollars in damages for infringing patents with some older model Android-powered devices.

The damages award was later trimmed to \$929 million and is being appealed.

If this new trial goes in Apple's favor, it could result in an even bigger award since it involves better-selling Samsung devices built with Google-backed Android software.

This time California-based Apple is taking aim at Samsung's flagship Galaxy line crafted to challenge the iPhone in the high-performance end of the market.

Under pressure from Koh, the chiefs of Apple and Samsung engaged in mediation to see if the dispute could be settled out of court, but talks failed.

However, the companies expressed a willingness to keep talking, raising the slim possibility trial could be avoided.

Jury selection commenced on Monday. Koh is allowing each side 25 hours to present evidence to make its case to jurors.

Apple filed the suit against the South Korean consumer electronics behemoth in February 2012 as "one action in a worldwide constellation of litigation between the two companies," the judge said in a ruling.

Patents at issue in the case involve unlocking touchscreens with gestures; automatically correcting words being typed; retrieving data sought by users, and performing actions on found data such as making a call after coming up with a phone number.

Apple argued in filings that a Google Quick Search Box in the Android-powered Galaxy Nexus steals from patented technology used by virtual assistant Siri to answer queries in the iPhone.

Samsung devices targeted by Apple include more than a half-dozen smartphones from the Galaxy line along with the Galaxy 3 tablet.

Samsung is countering with claims that Apple infringes on its patented technology for data transmission, imaging, audio, and video in iPhone, iPad, iPod and Macintosh computer models.

Koh early in March rejected Apple's request to ban an array of Samsung smartphones and tablets found during the blockbuster trial last year to have infringed on patents held by the US tech giant.

Koh reasoned that there was no evidence that consumer demand was driven by the infringing elements.

That point could be raised anew in the coming trial, putting pressure on Apple to show that patented features such as sliding a finger across a screen to unlock handsets were deciding factors in sales.

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PCs to lose more ground to tablets: survey

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Sales of traditional computers will lose more ground in 2014 to tablets and other mobile devices, a market tracker said.

A report by the research firm Gartner said the overall market for connected devices -- PCs, smartphones and tablets -- is likely to grow 6.9 percent to nearly 2.5 billion devices in 2014.

More people will dump their PCs for other devices, but the drop in PC sales will moderate to around 6.6 percent this year, with unit sales of 276 million. Some surveys

showed a drop of around 10 percent in PC sales last year.

"Tablet substitution of notebooks will start to dissipate from this year onwards as consumers and businesses align the right device with the right usage pattern," said Ranjit Atwal, research director at Gartner.

The global tablet market is expected to grow 38.6 percent, with much of the increase coming outside North America, Gartner said. Total tablet sales will nearly equal that of PCs at 270 million, the firm said.

Mobile phones, the largest

segment, is seen as growing 4.9 percent to 1.9 billion units -- led by "the lower end of the premium phone market and the higher end of the basic phone market," Gartner said.

The Google Android platform is expected to extend its lead in overall devices, with more than 1.1 billion units in 2014, mostly in mobile phones. Microsoft Windows will remain the number two platform with 339 million devices and Apple's iOS and Mac OS will remain third with 286 million devices, Gartner said.



IRAN (AFP) - This NASA Earth Observatory image obtained March 31, 2014 was acquired on February 14, 2014, with a Nikon D3 digital camera using a 200 millimeter lens, and provided by the ISS Crew Earth Observations Facility and the Earth Science and Remote Sensing Unit, Johnson Space Center. The image was taken by the Expedition 38 crew. It has been cropped and enhanced to improve contrast, and lens artifacts have been removed. As the astronauts on the International Space Station passed over the deserts of central Iran recently, they saw this pattern of parallel lines and sweeping curves. The lack of soil and vegetation in the Kavir desert (Dasht-e Kavir) allows the geological structure of the rocks to appear quite clearly. The patterns result from the gentle folding of numerous, thin layers of rock. Later erosion by wind and water cut a flat surface across the dark- and light-colored folds, not only exposing hundreds of layers but also showing the shapes of the folds. The pattern has been likened to the layers of a sliced onion. The dark water of a lake (center) fills a depression in a more easily eroded, S-shaped layer of rock. The irregular, light-toned patch just left of the lake is a sand sheet thin enough to allow the underlying rock layers to be detected. A small river snakes across the bottom of the image. In this desert landscape, there are no fields or roads to give a sense of scale. In fact, the width of the image is about 65 kilometers (105 miles).

Japan shoppers see first sales tax rise in 17 years

TOKYO (AFP) - The price of everything from beer and sushi to cars and dishwashers will rise across Japan today as shoppers are greeted by the first sales tax rise in 17 years, which has prompted fears of a drop in consumer spending.

Tokyo approved the move to hike the levy from 5.0 percent to 8.0 percent as of April 1 in a bid to tame a massive public debt burden. The government is also mulling another rise to 10 percent, still modest compared some nations' consumption tax.

But the rise has presented a huge challenge for Prime Minister Shinzo Abe since he swept to power in late 2012 on a ticket to nudge the world's number-three economy out of a cycle of falling prices and lacklustre growth with a policy blitz, dubbed Abenomics.

The last time Japan brought in a higher sales levy,

in 1997, it was followed by years of deflation and tepid economic growth that defined the country's protracted slump.

Tokyo's recent efforts to stoke lasting inflation appear to be taking hold which, together with higher prices due to the tax rise, may prompt consumers to snap their wallets shut.

A key worry is that Japan's last tax rise deterred spending and foreshadowed the drop into years of deflation -- although other factors, including the Asian financial crisis, were also blamed.

Aggravating fears over the economy were fresh figures Myesterday that showed a surprising drop in factory output in February. The disappointing data came just before the Bank of Japan publishes its influential Tankan business confidence survey today.

"When an increase in sales tax was introduced in 1997, the overall fall in demand contributed to a prolonged downturn, and there will be concern of something similar happening again," said Amy Brownbill, an economist at financial data firm Markit.

Falling or static prices may sound great for household budgets, but Japanese wages have barely moved over the years and the cycle has meant shoppers often held off buying in the hope of getting goods cheaper down the road. That, in turn, hurt producers and slowed growth in the wider economy.

Tokyo has launched a special budget to help counter any slowdown while some are looking to the Bank of Japan's unprecedented monetary easing campaign to soothe the impact of a fall in consumer demand.

Bachelet proposes tax reforms in Chile

SANTIAGO (AFP) - President Michelle Bachelet sent Chile's Congress a bill yesterday that would raise corporate taxes to fund a sweeping overhaul of the country's education system.

The proposed reform aims to raise \$8.2 billion to fund tuition-free public universities, a demand that fueled massive student protests under Bachelet's conservative predecessor Sebastian Pinera.

Bachelet, a socialist who took office on March 11, said it was "the beginning of one of our government's most important reforms, along with education reform and a new constitution."

If passed, as seems likely, the bill would raise the corporate tax rate from 20 to 25 percent by 2017 and elimi-

nate a deferment on taxes on reinvested earnings.

However, it would also lower the top tax rate for individuals from 40 to 35 percent. Salaries of \$10,500 or more a month would be taxed at the highest rate.

"The objective behind this measure is to give more equitable tax treatment to income from work in relation to income from capital," Bachelet said.

It comes at a time when the Chilean economy is experiencing slowing economic growth as a result of falling copper prices and declining investment.

Business groups have expressed concern about creating disincentives to investment.

But Bachelet insisted growth would not be hurt by the reforms and that, to the contrary, a healthy economy required an equitable society that strengthens its human capital and creates high quality institutions.

Bachelet has promised to usher in free university education in six years, while improving the quality of public education and ending a system dominated by private, for-profit schools.



Current as of: 03/31/2014	Currency Code	Buying Rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	98.00	100.00	100.20
Canada	CAD	1.59	1.61	1.63
Britain	GBP	2.90	2.95	3.01
Switzerland	CHF	201.28	202.00	202.80
Netherlands	EUR	243.35	245.57	248.04
Sweden	SEK	26.46	27.18	27.98
Denmark	DKK	31.94	32.66	33.46
Norway	NOK	28.78	29.50	30.30
Japan	JPY	170.87	172.43	174.16
(per 10,000)				

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Yellen: Slack US labor market still needs Fed support



CHICAGO - AFP photo shows Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen (R) sitting in on a class with student Leon Goldman as she tours the College to Careers Program in Advanced Manufacturing yesterday at the City Colleges of Chicago's Daley College in Chicago, Illinois. Yellen argued yesterday that the US labor market remains slack and that Fed policy needs to stay focused on generating jobs. In the clearest delineation of her priorities since taking the helm of the central bank in February, Yellen said the steady fall in the official unemployment rate to 6.7 percent masks deep weaknesses in the jobs market.

GM recalls another 1.5 mn cars over steering issue

NEW YORK (AFP) - General Motors recalled another 1.5 million cars globally yesterday, this time for a power steering issue, as the company faces probes over mis-handling a deadly faulty ignition problem.

The latest GM announcement took to more than six million the number of cars covered in recalls since the beginning of the year, though some could be listed under more than one recall.

Of the newly recalled vehicles, 1.3 million are in North America.

GM said that in a number of models from 2004-2010,

drivers could experience a loss of electric power steering assistance.

"Steering control can be maintained because the vehicle will revert to manual steering, but greater driver effort would be required at low vehicle speeds, which could increase the risk of a crash," GM said.

The recall covers various models years for Chevrolet Malibus, HHRs and Cobalts, Saturn Auras and Ions, and Pontiac G6s.

GM said it will replace the necessary parts for free, and reimburse anyone who previously paid for replacements.



INDIA, Hyderabad : Indian Bollywood actor Amitabh Bachchan poses with British Airways flight attendants yesterday during the launch of the British Airways Boeing 787 Dreamliner service to Hyderabad, in Hyderabad. British Airways began flights from Boeing 787 Dreamliner service in Hyderabad from London to Hyderabad starting from March 31. (AFP PHOTO)

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer



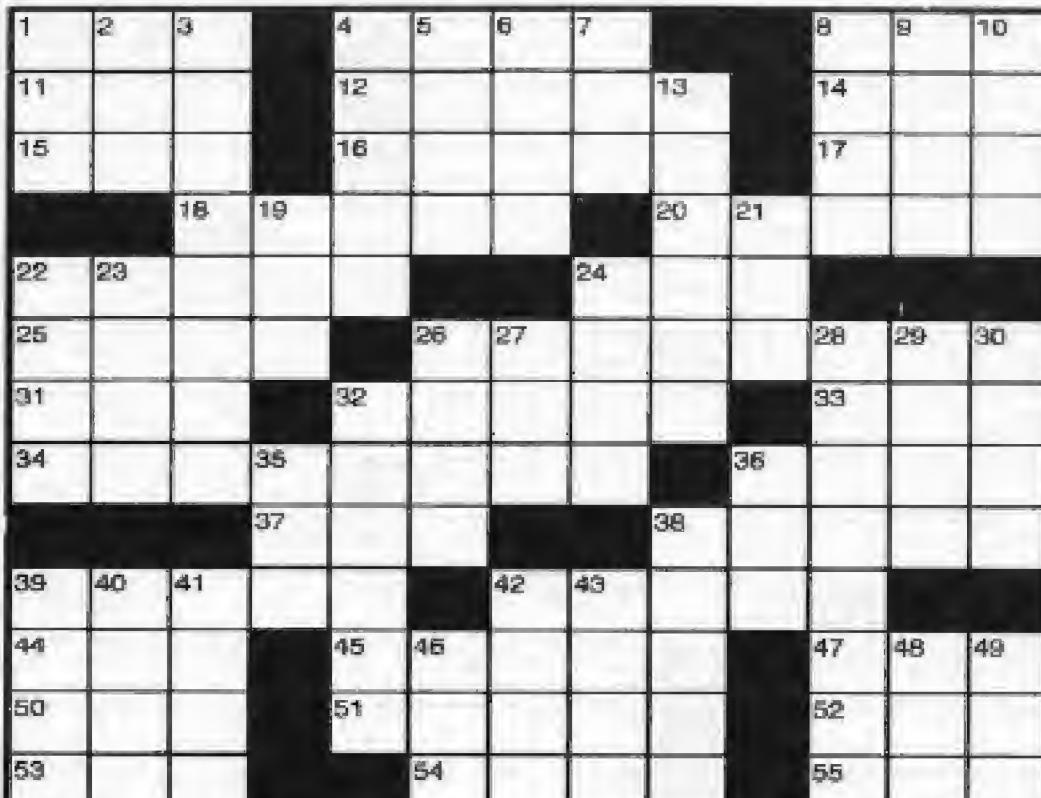
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ACROSS

- Doter's treatment (abbr.)
- Performs onstage
- Social reformer Nellie
- Teacher's group (abbr.)
- Cut, as wool
- Tell fibs
- Football tallies (abbr.)
- Tiny bite
- Water between the U.S. and Eur.
- Lists to
- Singer Mercer
- Javelin
- Travel term
- Expense
- MTV viewer, often
- Boxer
- Muhammad
- Pumpkin or cucumber, for example
- Cleanser ingredient
- Like powdered creamers
- Mend argyles
- advised



- Terminated
- Rhythm
- Gypsy
- Globe-shaped object
- Compose verse
- Quarterback Manning
- Trevino's gp.
- Disburdener
- Diarist Anaïs
- Help call
- Disclaim
- Jacuzzi spot
- Explosive initials
- Showed the way
- Redeems (2 wds.)
- Autumn bloom
- & Jeremy
- Actress Harper
- Took a chair
- Tell secrets
- Word on a local label
- Holler
- Nudge the memory
- Chow down
- Highest minor-league level
- Skim over
- Horseback sport
- Exceedingly
- Labor
- Finland's cont.
- Elates
- "Jane ___" (Brontë book)
- Pull apart
- Abundant
- Short swim
- Basis of heredity (abbr.)
- ___ board
- Defeats
- Hence
- Wharton grads
- Wall Street market (abbr.)
- Portent
- "I've ___ enough!"
- Gloss recipient
- Pigs ___ blanket (2 wds.)

SOLUTION

6	9	2	7	8	1	5	4	3	6	0	9
2	6	3	8	5	7	1	4	9	0	6	2
7	8	9	6	3	5	2	4	1	7	0	8
5	4	3	2	1	0	8	7	6	9	5	4
9	0	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0	9

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

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7	8	2	5								9
2	6										7
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		4	1	8							
8	3										7
											2
											7
7	4	1									
6	3										
5											1
											6
		6	4	7							5

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5 Burgers Aruba: Now your best breakfast bargain!



Delicious Breakfast

--A favorite stop for a great burger for lunch or dinner has just expanded their hours and menu to offer some of the best breakfast bargains to be found in Palm Beach. Owners Aaron and Rosie Walisever are living their dream: a home on para-

dise while welcoming all and sundry to their proud undertaking, 5 Burgers Aruba. The couple's fanatical dedication to giving their customers what they really want has resulted in a unique menu from an internationally known franchise with a "5", which now includes breakfast.

"You never get a second chance to make a first impression," believes Aaron. Upon entering 5 Burgers Aruba in The Village Mall in Palm Beach, one is struck by utterly spotless surroundings and a smiling, friendly, attentive service crew. Of course, the main item on the

menu is burgers-the way they were meant to be, thick and juicy, made fresh daily and 100% pure beef, the kind that made the hamburger a traditional American treat.

However, beginning at 8am, patrons can now order 2

eggs any style (omelets with 3 fillings are \$7.99) and toast for a price of only \$4.99 or All You Can Eat Pancakes for \$6.99! A new plate called the "Home Run" comes with 2 eggs, bacon or sausage, 2 pancakes, toast & home fries - for only \$9.99! Best of all - unlimited coffee or tea - that is, refillable and never ending is only \$.79! Breakfast is served from 8am until noon. Famous for their fries made from fresh potatoes, Aaron has been working for months on devising the most irresistible home fries recipe, chunky and tender with skins still on; after much testing and tasting, he got the thumbs up from his harshest critic, Rosie; so this is another treat you have to try.

A glance at their burger menu will certainly tempt you to return for lunch or dinner, to sample their famous specialty items such as the Gouda, Farmer's or Man Burger (almost 12 ounces of choice

beef), and a Western Burger with Aaron's secret-recipe crispy onion rings. All of these can be personalized with an incredible array of toppings, (mushrooms, jala-peño peppers, bacon, cheese, lettuce, tomato ..whatever, the list goes on) at absolutely no extra cost.



5 Burger portions are ENORMOUS! Aaron suggests that even their small serving of fries is enough to be shared by two. He was very amused to watch a famous French chef demonstrating the best way to

make fried potatoes on a gourmet cooking show and could only comment "He stole my recipe!"

Try them the English way-with vinegar, and you'll wonder how you ever ate fries without it. This same 5-star chef also swears by Gouda as the best topping for the ideal gourmet cheeseburger.

5 Burgers is now open early until 10-ish Sunday-Thursday; and until 3am on Friday & Saturdays.

Delivery is available to most Hotels and most beaches! Enjoy a great lunch without ever leaving the beach by calling 586-3904. However, we suggest you stop by and enjoy their authentic, heartfelt hospitality; it is not unusual for either owner to sit and chat, sharing their knowledge of the island while making sure patrons are happy with their meal.

Football: Mourinho tips Chelsea to bounce back against powerful PSG

PARIS (AFP) - Jose Mourinho has ruled his Chelsea side out of the Premier League title race, but he believes they will bounce back from domestic disappointment against Paris Saint-Germain in the Champions League on Wednesday.

The Chelsea manager questioned his players' mentality after a surprise 1-0 loss at Crystal Palace led to them being knocked off top spot in the Premier League by Liverpool.

Mourinho loves to play mind games, but with Manchester City poised to leapfrog the Blues by winning their games in hand, it may be true that Chelsea's best chance of silverware now lies with the Champions League.

And the Portuguese insists that his team will rise to the occasion as they face the Ligue 1 champions-elect at the Parc des Princes in the first leg of their quarter-final tie.

While Mourinho is driven by the desire to become the first coach to win the European Cup with three different



clubs following previous triumphs with Porto in 2004 and Inter in 2010, Ibrahimovic is still aiming to win the greatest prize in club football for the first time.

But, at the age of 32, the Swede seems to have belatedly reached his prime, with his tally of 40 goals in all competitions this season breaking the PSG club record.

If the consensus in England seems to be that Ibrahimovic always disappoints at the highest level, Mourinho, who coached the maverick striker at Inter in 2008/09, thinks rather differently.

"I only coached him for a year but it was a good year, a good experience and I rate him as one of the best players I have ever coached," he said.

PSG have not lost in 28 home European games and are currently on a club record-breaking run of nine straight wins in all competitions. They are running away with the Ligue 1 title and come into April 13 points clear of nearest challengers Monaco.

They were some way short of their best in Friday's 1-0 win at Nice, but coach Laurent Blanc admits that thoughts were already on Chelsea.

Blanc will hope that his side are able to raise their game against the London club as PSG seek to live up to the sky-high expectations surrounding them inside France, where there is a growing belief that they can go all the way and lift the trophy in Lisbon in May.

Just as Chelsea were transformed after being taken over by Russian billionaire Roman Abramovich a decade ago, the arrival of Qatar Sports Investments has made PSG capable of competing with Europe's very best, and the squad stand to earn a bonus of 1 million euros (£826,000, \$1.38m) per man if they win the trophy.

Silva will sport a mask to protect a fractured cheekbone but Gregory van der Wiel is unlikely to play due to a nagging knee problem so Christophe Jallet is set to play at right-back. For Chelsea, Mourinho has said he expects Samuel Eto'o to miss the game because of a hamstring injury and Nemanja Matic is ineligible.

Cricket: Giles admits T20 defeat to Dutch 'embarrassing'

CHITTAGONG (AFP) - England coach Ashley Giles Monday admitted their World Twenty20 defeat against minnows the Netherlands was "embarrassing" and said he shared the fans' anger at their humiliating loss.

England went down to the Netherlands by 45 runs in their last group one match in the Super-10 stage, a repeat of their 2009 World Twenty20 defeat on home ground.

Stuart Broad's men had threatened to be the dark horses in the group after beating pre-tournament favourites Sri Lanka on Thursday but their exit capped a miserable winter in which they were also crushed 5-0 in the Ashes in Australia.

Giles said having no chance of qualifying for the semis may have induced complacency in the team.

England restricted the Netherlands to 133-5 in their 20 overs but were never in the hunt for the chase, bowled out for 88 in 17.4 overs.

Giles said he understood and shared the anger of the fans.

"Absolutely I share that anger. There are a lot of emotions flying at the moment."

The coach also gave the Dutch their due.

"With all due respect to the Dutch because they played some good cricket in this competition. Clearly every time they go out and play, they play with pride and passion."

Giles said England started on the wrong note.

Giles, who is seeking the coach's job in all formats, was unsure the result will hurt his chances.

Briefs:



WINTER SPORT - VERBIER: (AFP) - New World Champion of the Men's ski event at the Freeride World Tour, France's Loic Collomb-Patton competes on the Bec de Rosses mountain during the Xtreme Freeride World Tour final yesterday above the Swiss Alps resort of Verbier.



GOLF - CARLSBAD (AFP) - Sweden's Anna Nordqvist captured her second US LPGA title of 2014 on Sunday, firing a final-round 67 to win the Kia Classic by one shot. Nordqvist, whose poor form in 2013 had her contemplating giving up the game, now goes into the first major of the year, the Kraft Nabisco Championship at Rancho Mirage, California, next week, brimming with confidence. Her five-under effort gave her a 13-under par total 275 at Aviara Golf Club, and a one-shot victory over American Lizette Salas. In February, the Swede notched a two-shot wire-to-wire victory in the LPGA Thailand, holding off a dramatic late challenge from world number one Park In-Bee. This time she had to battle back from a disappointing first-round 73. After a second-round 68 she carded back-to-back 67s on the weekend.



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NBA: Knicks boost playoff bid, Durant's lift Thunder



Knicks One Win Away From Getting Into Playoffs

OKLAHOMA CITY (AFP) - Kevin Durant continued his torrid scoring pace, pouring in 31 points on Sunday in the Oklahoma City Thunder's 116-96 NBA triumph over the Utah Jazz.

Russell Westbrook added 19 points and Serge Ibaka chipped in 17 points with six rebounds for the Thunder, who have won six of their last seven games.

Caron Butler contributed 15 points off the bench, going 5-for-5 from three-point range, and the Thunder clamped down on defense early to keep the Jazz in check.

The Thunder scored the first 11 points of the game and held the Jazz to 4-for-21 shooting from the floor in the first quarter. The hosts led 26-9 after the opening period.

"The defense really set the tone in the first quarter. Nine points, that's hard to do. That set the tempo right there,"

Thunder coach Scott Brooks said.

Durant posted his 38th straight game with at least 25 points and is closing in on a milestone streak.

Michael Jordan's 40 successive games with 25 points or more, achieved with the Chicago Bulls in the 1986-87 season, is the longest in the NBA's modern era.

While in Oakland J.R. Smith scored 31 points and Carmelo Anthony added 19 as the New York Knicks edged toward an NBA play-off berth with an 89-84 win over Golden State on Sunday.

The victory moved the Knicks just one game behind the fading Atlanta Hawks for the eighth and final spot in the Eastern Conference play-offs. They play the Jazz at Utah on Monday.

The Warriors, who have lost two of their last three, are now two games behind Portland for fifth in the Western Conference.

Baseball: Padres open 2014 with win over Dodgers

SAN DIEGO (AFP) - The San Diego Padres rallied with three runs in the eighth inning on Sunday to beat the Los Angeles Dodgers 3-1 in Major League Baseball's 2014 "Opening Night" showcase.

The Dodgers got seven shutout innings from South Korean starting pitcher Ryu Hyun-Jin, who retired 17 of the last 18 batters he faced -- including one span of 16 in a row.

Ryu allowed three hits with three walks and seven strikeouts, and left the game with the Dodgers up 1-0.

However, Padres pinch-hitter Seth Smith tied the game with a long home run to right field to start the eighth inning off relief pitcher Brian Wilson.

Wilson also gave up Chris Denorfia's two-run single later in the inning.

Padres reliever Dale Thayer had pitched a perfect top of the eighth inning.

To the delight of a sellout crowd of 45,567 at Petco Park, Padres closer Huston Street retired all three Dodgers hitters he faced in the ninth to post his first save of the season.

The Dodgers scored their lone run in the fifth inning off San Diego starting pitcher Andrew Cashner, when Carl Crawford's crisp single allowed Dee Gordon to score from second base.

The game was the first Stateside contest in Major League Baseball's 2014 season. But the Dodgers were actually playing their third game after sweeping a season-opening two-game series



Everth Cabrera #2 of the San Diego Padres, right, celebrates with Yasmani Grandal #8 after scoring during the eighth inning

against the Arizona Diamondbacks at the iconic Sydney Cricket Ground in Australia.

Monday's official "Opening Day" sees 13 games on the slate, including the reigning World Series champion Boston Red Sox's opener at the Baltimore Orioles.

The Red Sox surprised everybody in baseball with their 2013 World Series title one year removed from a 69-win season and fifth-place finish in the American League East division.

The Red Sox added some small pieces in off-season acquisitions of relief pitcher Edward Mujica, catcher A.J. Pierzynski and Grady Sizemore, the 31-year-old former All-Star who has battled a litany of injuries but was impressive enough in Spring Training to make the Opening Day roster.

The additions weren't earth-shaking, but the Red Sox hope they can again find the chemistry for a title run.

Baltimore, trying to contend in the tough AL East, inked free agent outfielder Nelson Cruz to a one-year contract and also added starting pitcher Ubaldo Jimenez to their rotation in a four-year deal.

Elsewhere on Monday, the Texas Rangers host the Philadelphia Phillies in an interleague contest.

The Rangers are without Japanese ace Yu Darvish for their opening game.

Darvish will start the season on the 15-day disabled list because of stiffness in his neck.

He was originally scheduled to start against the Phillies, but was scratched from that duty last week and placed on the DL on Sunday.

However, Darvish had a 32-pitch bullpen session on Sunday -- throwing for the second day in a row -- and reported no problems.

He was to rest on Monday and throw again on Tuesday, and with his spell on the DL back-dated to March 21 he will be eligible to play next weekend.

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ORANJESTAD - Within less than a month the Carifta 2014 competition will take place here on Aruba. During the competition there will be three disciplines in the play, namely, swimming, synchronized swimming and open water which will be in the sea. In the upcoming weeks they will introduce the general public to the athletes who will represent us and compete against the best athletes in the Caribbean region.

The competition is scheduled to take place from April 23 to 26 at the Roly Bisslik Olympic Pool in Savaneta.

There will be 11 athletes for synchronized swimming in the 12 years category. Their ages vary between 7 to 12 years. These youngsters have a great deal of experience with some 4 years of swimming experience. The synchronized swimming selection consists of Victoria Geurts and Kainah Croes, they will both swim a SOLO in this category. In the DUET, Victoria Geurts together with Kainah Croes and Zurienne Dabian together with Meghan Tromp. Finally the synchronized team consisting of Victoria

Geurts, Kainah Croes, Zuri enne Dabian, Meghan Tromp, Sarah Silcw, Sara Castano Vidal, Chante Martis and Casey Ann Her mosen.

All athletes will swim the technical part, which is the "Figures" event. For many years Aruba has dominated this discipline in the Caribbean region. Aruba has always been the winner and overall champion of CARIFTA.

Our athletes are counting on the support of the general public for this interesting event. Come out and support our youngsters as they demonstrate their swimming skills.

